

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for filtering electronic mail, comprising:
2 receiving, in a data processing system, an electronic
3 mail message;
4 determining if the electronic mail message includes an
5 intro-word;
6 delivering the electronic mail message if the
7 electronic mail message includes the intro-word;
8 and
9 storing the electronic mail message if the electronic
10 mail message does not include the intro-word.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the intro-word is
2 located in a subject line of the electronic mail
3 message.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering
2 the electronic mail message if the email address of a
3 sender of the electronic mail message is on an
4 authorized sender list.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering
2 the electronic mail message if the domain name of a
3 sender of the electronic mail message is on an
4 authorized domain list.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the
2 electronic mail message does not include the intro-
3 word, then sending a confirmation message to the
4 sender of the electronic mail message.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a response mail message corresponding to the
3 confirmation message;
4 delivering the electronic mail message if the response
5 mail message includes the intro-word; and
6 storing the electronic mail message if the response
7 mail message does not include the intro-word.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a response corresponding to the confirmation
3 message via an internet connection;
4 delivering the electronic mail message if the response
5 includes the intro-word; and
6 storing the electronic mail message if the response
7 does not include the intro-word.

1 8. The method of claim 5, further comprising sending an
2 obscured image of the intro-word to the sender.

1 9. The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the
2 intro-word to the sender in a non-machine-readable
3 form.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting the
2 stored electronic mail message after a predetermined
3 amount of time.

1 11. A data processing system having at least a processor
2 and accessible memory, comprising:
3 means for receiving, in the data processing system, an
4 electronic mail message;
5 means for determining if the electronic mail message
6 includes an intro-word;
7 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
8 the electronic mail message includes the intro-
9 word; and
10 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
11 electronic mail message does not include the
12 intro-word.

1 12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the
2 intro-word is located in a subject line of the
3 electronic mail message.

1 13. The data processing system of claim 11, further means
2 for comprising delivering the electronic mail message
3 if the email address of a sender of the electronic
4 mail message is on an authorized sender list.

1 14. The data processing system of claim 11, further
2 comprising means for delivering the electronic mail
3 message if the domain name of a sender of the
4 electronic mail message is on an authorized domain
5 list.

1 15. The data processing system of claim 11, further
2 comprising means for sending a confirmation message to
3 the sender of the electronic mail message if the
4 electronic mail message does not include the intro-
5 word.

1 16. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving a response mail message
4 corresponding to the confirmation message;
5 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
6 the response mail message includes the intro-
7 word; and
8 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
9 response mail message does not include the intro-
10 word.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving a response corresponding to the
4 confirmation message via an internet connection;
5 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
6 the response includes the intro-word; and
7 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
8 response does not include the intro-word.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising means for sending an obscured image of the
3 intro-word to the sender.

- 1 19. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising means for sending the intro-word to the
3 sender in a non-machine-readable form.
- 1 20. The data processing system of claim 11, further
2 comprising means for deleting the stored electronic
3 mail message after a predetermined amount of time.

1 21. A computer program product tangibly embodied in a
2 machine-readable medium, comprising:
3 instructions for receiving, in a data processing
4 system, an electronic mail message;
5 instructions for determining if the electronic mail
6 message includes an intro-word;
7 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
8 message if the electronic mail message includes
9 the intro-word; and
10 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
11 if the electronic mail message does not include
12 the intro-word.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the
2 intro-word is located in a subject line of the
3 electronic mail message.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for delivering the electronic
3 mail message if the email address of a sender of the
4 electronic mail message is on an authorized sender
5 list.

1 24. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for delivering the electronic
3 mail message if the domain name of a sender of the
4 electronic mail message is on an authorized domain
5 list.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for sending a confirmation
3 message to the sender of the electronic mail message
4 if the electronic mail message does not include the
5 intro-word.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions for receiving a response mail message
4 corresponding to the confirmation message;
5 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
6 message if the response mail message includes the
7 intro-word; and
8 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
9 if the response mail message does not include the
10 intro-word.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions for receiving a response corresponding to
4 the confirmation message via an internet
5 connection;
6 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
7 message if the response includes the intro-word;
8 and
9 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
10 if the response does not include the intro-word.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising instructions for sending an obscured image
3 of the intro-word to the sender.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising instructions for sending the intro-word to
3 the sender in a non-machine-readable form.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for deleting the stored
3 electronic mail message after a predetermined amount
4 of time.